

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 EB-11 SCI-06 EPA-04 DRC-01 /145 W

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O O 230000Z JAN 74 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9885

INFO USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, FR, GW, GE, US, UR, UK, WB

SUBJECT: GDR THREATENS TRANSIT TRAFFIC IF FRG

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN WEST BERLIN

SUMMARY: BAHR TOLD THREE ALLIED REPS GDR SAYS
WOULD BE FORCED EXAMINE USE OF TRANSIT ROUTES BY WORKERS
IN ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN. FRG SLATED
DECIDE UPON ESTABLISHMENT JAN. 23 AND REQUESTS THREE
MAKE DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS. THREE AGREED AMONG SELVES TO
SO RECOMMEND TO CAPITALS AND HAVE BONN GROUP BEGIN
JAN. 23 DRAFTING NOTE FOR DELIVERY IN MOSCOW AT LATEST
PRIOR JAN. 28 SAYING GDR MOVE UNACCEPTABLE. END SUMMARY

1. IN ABSENCE OF US AND UK AMBASSADORS IN BERLIN, TWO
DCM'S AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR MET WITH EGON BAHR AT HIS
REQUEST AT 2015 JAN. 22.

2. BAHR SAID CHANCELLOR WANTED THREE TO KNOW THAT GDR
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REPRESENTATIVE NIER HAD ASKED HIS FRG COUNTERPART GAUS

TO MEET HIM AT 1100 JAN. 22 IN EAST BERLIN TO EXPLAIN IN "NOT UNFRIENDLY" FASHION THAT IF FRG ESTABLISHES ITS ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN, GDR WOULD BE FORCED TO EXAMINE QUESTION OF USE OF TRANSIT ROUTES BY PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THIS OFFICE WITH ALL OF THE RESULTS THAT WOULD FOLLOW. SUCH AN ESTABLISHMENT, NIER ADDED, WOULD DO GREAT INJURY TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT CONCERNING "REDUCTION" OF FEDERAL PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN AND VIOLATE AGREEMENT NOT TO CHANGE THE EXISTING SITUATION UNILATERALLY.

3. GAUS RESPONDED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE COMES WITHIN AGREED UPON MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TIES BETWEEN FRG AND WEST BERLIN AND WOULD NOT

AFFECT AGREEMENT PROVISION THAT WEST BERLIN NOT CONSTITUENT PART OF FRG NOR GOVERNED BY IT, WHICH FRG RESPECTS. GAUS ADDED THAT BLOW AGAINST TRANSIT TRAFFIC WOULD BE BLOW AGAINST DETENTE AND COULD NOT BE WITHOUT RESULTS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH GDR WOULD BEAR.

4. NIER HAD MADE STATEMENT ORALLY AND HAD BEEN VERY CONCERNED THAT MATTER NOT BECOME PUBLIC. SAID COULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT HIS NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WITH GAUS AT END JAN. MIGHT BE AFFECTED BUT SHOULD STAY ON SCHEDULE FOR NOW.

5. BAHR EXPLAINED THAT FED. GOVT. SCHEDULED ON PUBLIC RECORD TO DECIDE TOMORROW THAT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN WEST BERLIN AND BRANDT AND SCHEEL HAD DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AS PLANNED UNLESS THREE POWERS RECOMMENDED OTHERWISE. JOINED GDR HOPE THAT LATTER'S ACTION COULD BE KEPT FROM PUBLIC AS WOULD BE EASIER IF PRESTIGE NOT OPENLY ENGAGED. NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERED STEP SERIOUS SINCE IF GDR ESTABLISHED CATEGORY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01146

OF 150 TO 160 ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE WORKERS WHO PREVENTED FROM USING TRANSIT ROUTES, WOULD GO TO HEART OF QA, AND WOULD ULTIMATELY BE ABLE PRECLUDE OTHER 20,000 FRG EMPLOYEES IN WEST BERLIN. IMPORTANT QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE INVOLVED. FRG CONSIDERS IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT THREE POWERS MAKE SOVIETS AWARE OF CONSEQUENCES GDR THREAT MIGHT HAVE AND BELIEVES QUADRIPARTITE "CONSULTATIONS" SHOULD BEGIN.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED RESERVATION CONCERNING CONSULTATIONS ABOUT "PRESENCE." BAHR REPLIED HE ENVISAGED CONSULTATIONS ABOUT "TRANSIT" NOT "PRESENCE."

7. BRITISH DCM SAID THREE HAD ALREADY TOLD SOVIETS ESTABLISHMENT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE WOULD NOT BE CONTRARY TO QA AND COULDN'T REVERSE POSITION NOW. US DCM AGREED. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DIDN'T DISAGREE.

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8. BAHR SAID FRG HAD EXPECTED NOTHING ELSE AND WOULD

PROCEED TOMORROW AS PLANNED. AGAIN URGED GDR THREAT BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. IN REPLY TO QUESTION SAID ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE STAFF WOULD PROBABLY NOT USE TRANSIT ROUTES BEFORE JAN. 28.

9. AFTERWARDS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND TWO DCM'S AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO CAPITALS EARLIEST POSSIBLE DELIVERY OF NOTES IN MOSCOW, CERTAINLY BEFORE JAN. 28 SAYING GDR

MOVE UNACCEPTABLE. WILL BEGIN DRAFT TEXT BONN
GROUP JAN. 23.
HILLENBRAND

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